(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearance of those projects; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) There is no tourism development project of ' Orissa pending for environmental clearance as such. However, a proposal for diversion of 901.25 ha. of forest land for development of a special Tourism Area on the Sea Beach between Puri and Konark in Puri District of Orissa was received from the State Government. After site inspection and detailed examination of the proposal, the State Government has been requested to prepare a revised proposal after carefully assessing the likely effects on the environment including on flora and fauna in the area. The revised proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is awaited from the State Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Commercialisation of Forest Land

2853. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest land are being commercialised in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the States where such incidents are increasing;

(c) the steps taken to stop such'practice since the commercialisation will create growing imbalance in the environment; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, use of forest land for non forestry purposes including commercial purposes is not permitted without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the Aid. After receipt of formal proposal from the concerned State Government in this regard, it is examined carefully an3 after taking into consideration the likely benefits from the project vis-a-vis likely adverse impact of such diversion on environment, particularly on flora and fauna, a judicious decision is taken in respect of the proposal. While according approval for diversion of forest land, raising of compensatory afforestation is stipulated along with other safeguards to offset the likely adverse impact of such .diversion on environment.

Clearance of Dholpur Power Project, Rajasthan

2854. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally cleared the Dholpur Power Project for Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in giving clearance and what are the conditions attached to the clearance, of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Dholpur Power Project has been cleared from the environmental angle. The time taken in giving the clearance could be attributed to the improper selection of technology and infrastructure. The original proposal of the Project of 750 MW was not found to be environmentally compatible and its proximity to areas of ecological sensitivity and - architectural importance, subsequently the Project Authorities opted for a clean technology which had now become commercially available, and also scaled down the size of the proposal to 360 MW. The clearance has been given subject to condition, which include the following:

— The proposed plant should be based on clean techoligy which has been

specified; so as to reduce considerably the gaseous emissions from the stacks. No deviation from this clean Technology is to be allowed.

Liquid effluents should be properly treated to conform to the standards stipulated by the State Pollution Control Board. Efforts should be made to recycle/refuse the treated effluent to the maximum extent possible.

Cooling Towers should be provided to eliminate discharge of hot water into the river directly or indirectly.

No liquid effluents from the ash pond should flow into the Chambal river and waste water should be recycled and zero discharge concept should be adopted.

Fly ash should be utilised to the maximum extent possible.

A green belt of adequate width and density should be provided all around the power station by utilising the waste water to the extent possible;

A master plan with zonation should be prepared for Dholpur area by the State Government in order to avoid haphazard growth of industries, human settlements, etc. Expansion of town/industrial estates towards Van Vihar and the Sanctuary as well as the Chambal river should be avoided.

Adequate number of embient air quality monitoring stations should be set up between Dholpur and Agra as also near to Van Vihar and Sanctuary.

शेरों की संख्या में कमी

2855. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय:
श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल:

क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लखीमपुर खेरी स्थित विश्व-विख्यात दुधवा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में शेरों की संख्या में लगातार कमी हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है और क्या वन्य-जीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 का पालन किया जा रहा है;

(ग) क्या विश्व-विख्यात उद्यान में शेरों के अवैध शिकार के विरुद्ध अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही प्रारम्भ की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है और सरकार उक्त उद्यान में शेरों की संख्या को पढ़ाने तथा उक्त उद्यान स्थित "गोला ताल फट्टी" को शेर अभयारण्य में बदलने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है, और इस संबंध में कब तक कार्यवाही किए जाने की संभावना है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (ग) यद्यपि दुधवा में शेरों के चोरी-छिपे शिकार की कई रिपोर्टें मिली है, राज्य सरकार ने दुधवा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में शेरों की संख्या में किसी प्रकार की कमी होने की सूचना नहीं दी है। दुधवा में वन्य-जीव (सुरक्षा) अधिनियम, 1972 के उपबंधों का अनुपालन किया जा रहा है और चोरी-छिपे शिकार करने वालों के खिलाफ कानून के उपबंधों के अनुसार कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(घ) सरकार केवल के आधार पर किसी संरक्षण कार्यक्रम को आरम्भ करने का प्रस्ताव नहीं करती है। "गोला ताल फट्टी" को शेर अभयारण्य में बदलने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है।

Killing of big cats and exporting their bonce and other organs

2856. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI AHMED MOHMED-BHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ft is a fact that Union Minister of Environment and Forests have recently expressed serious concern over an internal gang operating in Indian Forests and Tiger Reserve killing the big cats and illegally exporting their bones and other organs;